

The Redheaded Pochard also is rare in southern India. The report on the Vernay Scientific Survey of the Eastern Ghats contained only two records of this species from Vizagapatam and Bellary. Subsequent to this on page 400 of Vol. 46 of the *Journal* H. G. Lumsden referred to seeing a few around Madras.—EDS.]

5. THE GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD [*CHORIOTIS NIGRICEPS* (VIGORS)] AT THE NEST

(With 2 plates)

The Great Indian Bustard, *Choriotis nigriceps* (Vigors), because of ceaseless persecution, is extremely wary at the nest. I therefore consider myself very fortunate to get the photographs of this bird at its nest, which I am sending you and which I think will interest you and your readers. In one of them the bird is seen with its feathers puffed out to drive off a crow which was flying low over the nest.

I take this opportunity to stress the need for protecting this magnificent bird. Once found in numbers in the Punjab, Rajasthan, and Sind, through central India, Kathiawar, and the Deccan to Mysore, it is now found in a few patches scattered here and there in its former range. In Saurashtra a nomadic race, the Dafers, are its worst enemies. Equipped with guns and camels they are perhaps responsible for wiping out more game birds and animals than any other single agency. Why they are allowed to keep guns is a mystery.

As the range of the bird is large it is perhaps not possible to adequately protect it throughout the range, but sanctuaries should be established at selected places in Rajasthan, Saurashtra, and the Deccan. Also, as they have a tendency to breed together and their breeding areas are well known, they should be strictly protected at the breeding season when they are most susceptible to attack.

My thanks are due to M. K. Dharmakumarsinhji without whose inspiration and guidance this note would not have been possible.

THE PALACE,

JASDAN,

January 2, 1962.

Y. S. SHIVRAJKUMAR